(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to encourage domestic steel producers to cater to the needs of domestic industrial units ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) The London Metal Exchange (LME) price of Aluminium has risen to an average of US $ 1505 in July, 1994 from an average of US $ 1177.07 in January, 992.

(b) Due to increased exports by domestic producers, there was no shortage of steel materials in the country during 1993-94.

(c) Government has taken a number of steps to increase the production of steel in the country. Modernisation and expansion of public sector steel Plants has been taken up. Government have also adopted various policy measures to facilitate and encourage the creation of additional steel production capacities in the private sector which are as follows :—

(i) removal of iron and steel from the list of industries reserved for the public sector ;

(ii) exemption of iron and steel industry from the provisions of compulsory licensing ;

(iii) inclusion of iron and steel in the list of high priority industry for purposes of foreign investments ;

(iv) de-regulation of pricing and distribution of iron and steel ;

(v) reduction of duty on import of capital goods ;

(vi) liberalisation of import and export policy.

Violation of rules by supply department of Andaman and Nicobar Islands

516. SHRI A. NALLASIVAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any representation in connection with the alleged gross violation in implementation of Rules of Government of India on Labour Cooperatives by the Supply Department of Andaman and Nicobar Islands ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to stop such violation of rules ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. As reported by Government of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the allegations contained in the representation were examined by them and found to be baseless.

Shakahari Movement in the country

517. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Shakahari movement is gaining momentum in the country ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 75 per cent of the people of the country are vegetarians and 90 percent are against killing of animals ; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to make the movement a success ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) No such information is available.

(b) and (c) Though majority of people in our country are vegetarians, choice of food is a personal matter. The main concern of the Government is to ensure availability of proper and adequate, nutritional food to the people, rather than promoting any particular type of food.

Production of Gur

518. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to Food Minister's announcement that production of 'Gur' will in future be either banned or reduced ;

(b) whether Government has endorsed the suggestion ; and

(c) what are the implications of this on the farmer community ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) Ministry of Food has informed that no such announcement has been made by the Food Minister that Production of 'Gur' in future will be banned or reduced.

(b) and (c) Question do not arise.

अभावग्रस्त जिले

519. **श्रीमती चन्द्रिका अभिनन्दन चौबे** : क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) सरकार द्वारा इस वर्ष महाराष्ट्र और गुजरात तथा अन्य राज्यों के किन-किन जिलों को अभावग्रस्त जिला घोषित किया गया है ;

(ख) महाराष्ट्र और गुजरात की राज्य सरकारों ने इन क्षेत्रों के लिए राहत के रूप में कितनी केन्द्रीय सहायता की मांग की है; और

(ग) सरकार की इस पर क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अरविन्द नेताम) : (क) राज्य सरकारों से प्राप्त सूचना के अनुसार आंध्र प्रदेश, गुजरात, महाराष्ट्र और राजस्थान के कुछ जिलों के कुछ भाग सूखा प्रभावित घोषित किए गए हैं । इन जिलों की सूची संलग्न है (**नीचे देखिये**)

(ख) और (ग) सूखे से प्रभावित क्षेत्रों में राहत उपाय शुरू करने के लिए आर्थिक सहायता मांगे जाने के संबंध में गुजरात तथा महाराष्ट्र सरकार से कोई ज्ञापन प्राप्त नहीं हुआ है । सूखे की स्थिति को ध्यान में रखते हुए गजरात सरकार को वर्ष 1994–95 के लिए आपदा राहत निधि के केन्द्रीय अंश की दो किस्तें, जो 31.875 करोड़ रुपए है, अग्रिम तौर पर दिनांक 13–6–1994 को जारी कर दी गई है ।

"सूखे से प्रभावित" घोषित जिलों की सूची

1. आंध्र प्रदेश	1. श्रीकाकुलम
	2. विजयनगरम
	3. विशाखापत्तनम
	4. पूर्वी गोदावरी
	5. पश्चिमी गोदावरी
	6. करीमनगर
	7. नलगोंडा
	8. अनन्तपुर
	9. महबूबनगर
	10. मैदक
	11. रंगा रेड्डि
	12. कृष्णा